

Message Text

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TAGS:

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH MRS. SADAT

1. UNDERSTAND MRS. JIHAN SADAT HAS JUST LEARNED THAT INTERVIEW SHE
GAVE TO AMERICAN JOURNALIST HAS APPEARED IN "PLAYGIRL" MAGAZINE,
AND SHE IS FURIOUS.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FROM INFORMATION MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY
MURSI SAAD AL DIN WHO TOLD PAO THAT AMERICAN WOMAN, MS. CELESTE
FREMON, APPROACHED EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON SOME TIME AGO ASKING
FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING INTERVIEW WITH MRS. SADAT. FREMON SAID
SHE WAS FREELANCE JOURNALIST ON CONTRACT WITH "UNIVERSAL PRESS",
WHICH WOULD HAVE THE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN SEVERAL HUNDRED AMERICAN
PUBLICATIONS. MUHAMMAD HAKKI OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY CHECKED WITH
UNIVERSAL PRESS WHICH VOUCHED FOR FREMON, SO HAKKI RECOMMENDED HER
TO EGYPTIAN INFORMATION MINISTRY AND PRESIDENCY. FREMON CAME TO
CAIRO AND MRS. SADAT'S PRESS SECRETARY AHMAD FAWZI ARRANGED
INTERVIEW.

HAKKI HAS NOW INFORMED SAAD AL DIN AND FAWZI THAT LATEST ISSUE OF
"PLAYGIRL" MAGAZINE PRINTED THE FREMON INTERVIEW AS AN "EXCLUSIVE".
WHEN FAWZI SHOWED MAGAZINE TO MRS. SADAT SHE REACTED VERY ANGRILY,
AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SAY THAT FREMON MISREPRESENTED HERSELF IN AP-
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PLYING FOR INTERVIEW. HAKKI SAYS HE CONTACTED UNIVERSAL PRESS WHICH
CLAIMED TO BE UPSET ALSO BY PUBLICATION OF INTERVIEW IN
PLAYGIRL. SAAD AL DIN IS MOST CONCERNED THAT PUBLICATION, ALTHOUGH
IT IS NOT SOLD IN EGYPT, WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ELSEWHERE IN ARAB WORLD
AND USED AGAINST MRS. SADAT BY SOMEONE LIKE QADDAFI. BUT HE REALIZES
THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

3. WE AGREE WITH SAAD AL DIN THAT APPEARANCE OF INTERVIEW IN THIS PARTICULAR PUBLICATION WILL BE VERY HARMFUL TO MRS. SADAT. SAAD AL DIN SAYS HE HAS NO PROBLEM WITH CONTENT OF INTERVIEW AS AS PUBLISHED. HOWEVER, EMBOFFS HAVE ALREADY HEARD EGYPTIANS SAYING THEY "UNDERSTAND" MRS. SADAT MADE INDISCREET COMMENTS IN IT ABOUT HER OWN PERSONAL LIFE. SUCH RUMORS ARE BOUND TO CONTINUE.

4. WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ARRANGING INTERVIEW, AND HAVE NO WAY OF BEING CERTAIN THAT FREMON DID MISREPRESENT HERSELF. UNDERSTAND FREMON SAYS NOW SHE TOLD EGYPTIANS THAT IN HER APPLICATION FOR INTERVIEW SHE SIMPLY SAID IT WOULD APPEAR IN "ONE OR MORE" OF SEVERAL POSSIBLE AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS, WHICH SHE DID NOT SPECIFY. IT MAY BE THAT EGYPTIANS DID NOT ASK ENOUGH QUESTIONS BEFOREHAND. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY COULD PROBABLY USE ADVICE ON DEALING WITH THESE SITUATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THIS MATTER. MATTHEWS

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